

WI-215  
W. W. Disharoon Property  
Allen  
Private

Mid to late nineteenth century

Located on the west side of the main road through the community of Allen is a complex of mid to late nineteenth century buildings historically known as the W. W. Disharoon property, or the Francis E. Smith property, or simply as the "Doll House." The doll house label was inspired by the diminutive size of the story-and-a-half frame house, which was a former outbuilding to the large dwelling on the site that burned during the early twentieth century. The former outbuilding, probably a kitchen or perhaps a slave quarter, was relocated and enlarged with shed additions in a plan to create a modest sized dwelling. Few exterior details of the original structure are evident due to the shed additions that have enlarged the one-room plan structure. A large brick chimney was erected against the gable end of the outbuilding in order to serve the main room as well as a kitchen on the west side. Surviving in the main living room is a corner stair enclosed with beaded board partition. Standing just off the northwest corner of the house is a stilted frame dairy dating from the mid-nineteenth century. A shallow pitched gable roof with wide eaves on front and back cover a squarish enclosure where milk was formerly stored. The wide eaves provided a measure of shade from the sun and louvered openings in each side provided for proper air circulation. The dairy was placed on stilts to protect from the periodic dampness of the soil. Also noteworthy on the property is a large late nineteenth century horse and hay barn. The barn roof is

significant for its scissors truss system that allowed for a large volume of hay to be stored on the second floor.

This village property was owned during the third quarter of the nineteenth century by William W. Disharoon, who is designated as owning this property on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas of the Eastern Shore. W. W. Disharoon is listed on the atlas patron list as a farmer and merchant owning 235 acres. In 1885 financial difficulties forced W. W. Disharoon to dissolve the business of Disharoon & Sons, and he transferred legal ownership of the Allen property to Robert F. Bratten in February 1885. Three years later the property was conveyed to Francis E. and Andrew W. Smith, and it was for some time the residence of Francis and Ida Smith.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: W. W. Disharoon Property

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-215

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):     Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s):     Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
1815-1870

4. Resource Type(s):           Single family dwelling  
Farm complex  
    -barn  
    -stilted dairy  
    -outbuilding

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-215

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic W. W. DISHAROON PROPERTY

and/or common Frank Smith Property "Doll House" Property

**2. Location**

street & number 3328 Allen Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Allen ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bruce and Melissa Politt Bright

street & number P. O. Box 11 telephone no.:

city, town Allen state and zip code Maryland 21810

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 951

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 674

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-215

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historically identified as the Disharoon property, or the Francis E. Smith property, or simply as the "Doll house," this small single-story frame dwelling and surrounding outbuildings are located at 3328 Allen Road in the village of Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story house faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Dating from the mid-nineteenth century the single-story frame dwelling has at its core a one-room plan timber frame structure that probably served as a kitchen to a house that no longer stands on the site. The single-bay, single-pile frame structure was relocated and enlarged into a modest sized house with shed additions extending the outbuilding on three sides. A shed roof porch is attached to the south side, while another shed roofed addition that contains the kitchen extends from the west side. A third shed roofed room stretches across the north side of the one-room plan structure. The building is covered with aluminum siding, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The edge of the roof is finished flush, and an exterior brick chimney rises against the west gable end with the base enclosed within the shed kitchen. The interior has been remodeled various times, and most of the nineteenth century woodwork has been removed. An enclosed winder staircase rises in the southeast corner behind a beaded board partition and a board-and-batten door.

Standing on the northwest corner of the house is a stilted, board-and-batten dairy covered by a medium pitched gable roof. The roof is extended on front and back with wide eaves and the flush gable ends are finished with a bargeboard. The gable end above the board-and-batten wall is covered with beaded weatherboards fastened with mature cut nails. The front (east) wall is marked by a recessed alcove with small board-and-batten doors hinged on three sides of the opening. Louvered grills mark the sides of the dairy. The interior is fitted with shelving.

West of the house and dairy is a large late nineteenth century (c. 1880-1900) horse and hay barn with a gable-front orientation. Resting on a low masonry foundation, the exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the north side of the main block is an open wagon shed. A wide door opening marks the center bay on the first floor. A center passage is flanked by animal stalls to each side. Located in the northeast corner is a ladder providing access to the second floor hay loft. The roof framing consists of a scissors truss system that allowed for uninterrupted space in which to stack hay bales.

Another outbuilding that stands forward of the barn near the road is single-story two-room frame structure of undetermined use. The rectangular frame building is sheathed with plain weatherboards, and it is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. The front wall is marked by a pair of six panel doors that open into separate rooms. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice, and the gable ends are flush.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-215

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Located on the west side of the main road through the community of Allen is a complex of mid to late nineteenth century buildings historically known as the W. W. Disharoon property, or the Francis E. Smith property, or simply as the "Doll House." The doll house label was inspired by the diminutive size of the story-and-a-half frame house, which was a former outbuilding to the large dwelling on the site that burned during the early twentieth century. The former outbuilding, probably a kitchen or perhaps a slave quarter, was relocated and enlarged with shed additions in a plan to create a modest sized dwelling. Few exterior details of the original structure are evident due to the shed additions that have enlarged the one-room plan structure. A large brick chimney was erected against the gable end of the outbuilding in order to serve the main room as well as a kitchen on the west side. Surviving in the main living room is a corner stair enclosed with beaded board partition. Standing just off the northwest corner of the house is a stilted frame dairy dating from the mid-nineteenth century. A shallow pitched gable roof with wide eaves on front and back cover a squarish enclosure where milk was formerly stored. The wide eaves provided a measure of shade from the sun and louvered openings in each side provided for proper air circulation. The dairy was placed on stilts to protect from the periodic dampness of the soil. Also noteworthy on the property is a large late nineteenth century horse and hay barn. The barn roof is significant for its scissors truss system that allowed for a large volume of hay to be stored on the second floor.

This village property was owned during the third quarter of the nineteenth century by William W. Disharoon, who is designated as owning this property on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas of the Eastern Shore. W. W. Disharoon is listed on the atlas patron list as a farmer and merchant owning 235 acres. In 1885 financial difficulties forced W. W. Disharoon to dissolve the business of Disharoon & Sons, and he transferred legal ownership of the Allen property to Robert F. Bratten in February 1885. (Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 7/150) Three years later the property was conveyed to Francis E. and Andrew W. Smith, and it was for some time the residence of Francis and Ida Smith. (Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 9/277)

This complex qualifies for listing under *Category B*, which identifies properties that should be preserved to their distinctive architectural features. The complex also contributes to the historic character of Allen.

Survey No. WI-215

## PS-2746

WI-215  
W. W. Disharoon Property  
3328 Allen Road  
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

951/674                      Union Trust Co. of Maryland  
Victor H. Laws  
William Perry Desmond, trustees under Trust  
agreement dated August 29, 1977 from William  
Perry Desmond

to

11/14/1980                  Bruce Bright  
Melissa Pollitt Bright  
"Doll House"

AJS 884/885                  Victor H. Laws, Personal Representative of  
Anne M. Desmond, deceased

to

10/3/1977                   Grantors above

JWTS 351/34                  W. F. Messick Ice Company

to

8/25/1953                   Anne M. Desmond

Carroll E. Bounds  
William W. Travers, trustees

to

W. F. Messick Ice Company

1. 12/15/1944              JWS 265/187

2. 3/24/1953                JWTS 349/143



WI-215  
W. W. Disharoon Property  
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWS 265/187

Carroll E. Bounds  
William W. Travers, trustees

to

12/15/1944

W. F. Messick Ice Company

36 acres being the residence property of  
Francis E. Smith in his lifetime and being  
in all respects th same land conveyed unto  
Ida L. Smith by Francis E. Smith under Item  
One 6/6/1921 JCK 123/264

JCK 123/265

Francis E. Smith

to

6/6/1921

Ida L. Smith

"where I now reside" which was conveyed to  
me and Andrew W. Smith by the following deeds.

1. from John I. T. Long JTT 9/277

2. from James E. Ellegood, trustee  
dated 9/13/1902 JTT 34/146 the said  
Andrew W. Smith having conveyed to me his  
undivided interest 11/17/1902 JTT 34/169

JTT 9/277

John I. T. Long  
Cora B. Long

to

9/9/1892

Andrew W. Smith  
Francis E. Smith

4 acres, 2 roods, 13 perches, and 7 yards

WI-215

Page 3

W. W. Disharoon Property  
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

JTT 34/146

James E. Ellegood, Trustee

to

9/13/1902

Frank E. Smith  
Andrew W. Smith

Whereas Robert F. Bratten was appointed trustee by a Deed of Trust executed on 2/9/1885 by William W. Disharoon for the benefit of his creditors and by virtue of the power and authority of said Deed of Trust sold on 10/19/1888 to said parties of the second part the hereinafter described property, which sale was duly ratified and whereas the said Robert F. Bratten has departed this life without having executed a deed to the parties of the second part, James E. Ellegood, was appointed trustee in the place ~~and~~ stead of Robert F. Bratten

contains 2 21/100s acres according to the survey of Peter S. Shockley 8/28/1902

SPT 7/150

W. W. Disharoon

to

2/9/1885

Robert F. Bratten

Whereas the said W. W. Disharoon is justly and bona fide indebted unto divers persons-conveys all property--the said firm of W. W. Disharoon and Sons having dissolved and their assets having passed into the hands of said William W. Disharoon and by him have been onveyed in this deed the said William having assumed all the liabilities of said firm when he took possession of their assets.



UPPER DISTRICT BUSINESS REFERENCES.

**MU** **WEBB**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Glassware, Ready-made Clothing, and Berry Baskets in season, Notions, &c. Goods of Merchandise usually kept in a country store. Fruitland, Md.

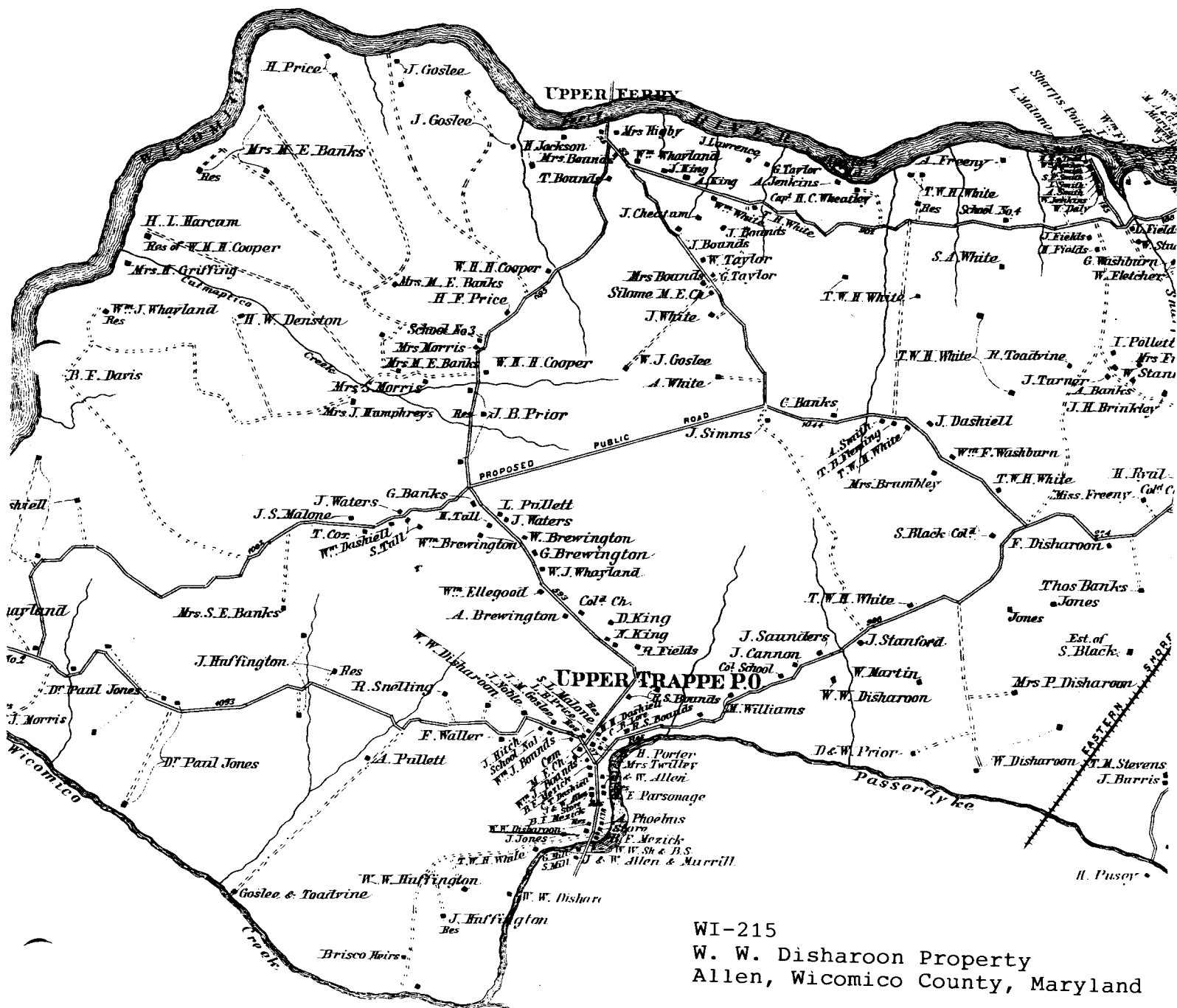
**JNBY**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Ware, Notions, &c. Eden, Md.

**DELANY AND SONS**, General Dealers and Shippers of all kinds of Domestic Fruits and Vegetables. Also dealers in all kinds of Merchandise adapted to a village store. Fruitland, Md.

**ALLEN**, Dealers in Dry Goods and Groceries, Patent Medicines, Boots, Shoes, Hardware and Crockery, Paints, Oils, Dye-stuffs, Glass, Drugs and Medicines, Fancy Goods, Hats and Caps, and other Goods usually kept in a country store. For cash or Produce. Upper-Trappe, Md.

# TRAPPE

Dist. No. 7  
WICOMICO CO.



WI-215  
W. W. Disharoon Property  
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson  
Atlas 1877



WI-215  
W. W. Disharoon Property  
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle  
1983

42°30'

39

(PRINCESS ANNE)

5860 II NW

SCALE 1:24 000

40

42



W-215

W. W. DISMORON President

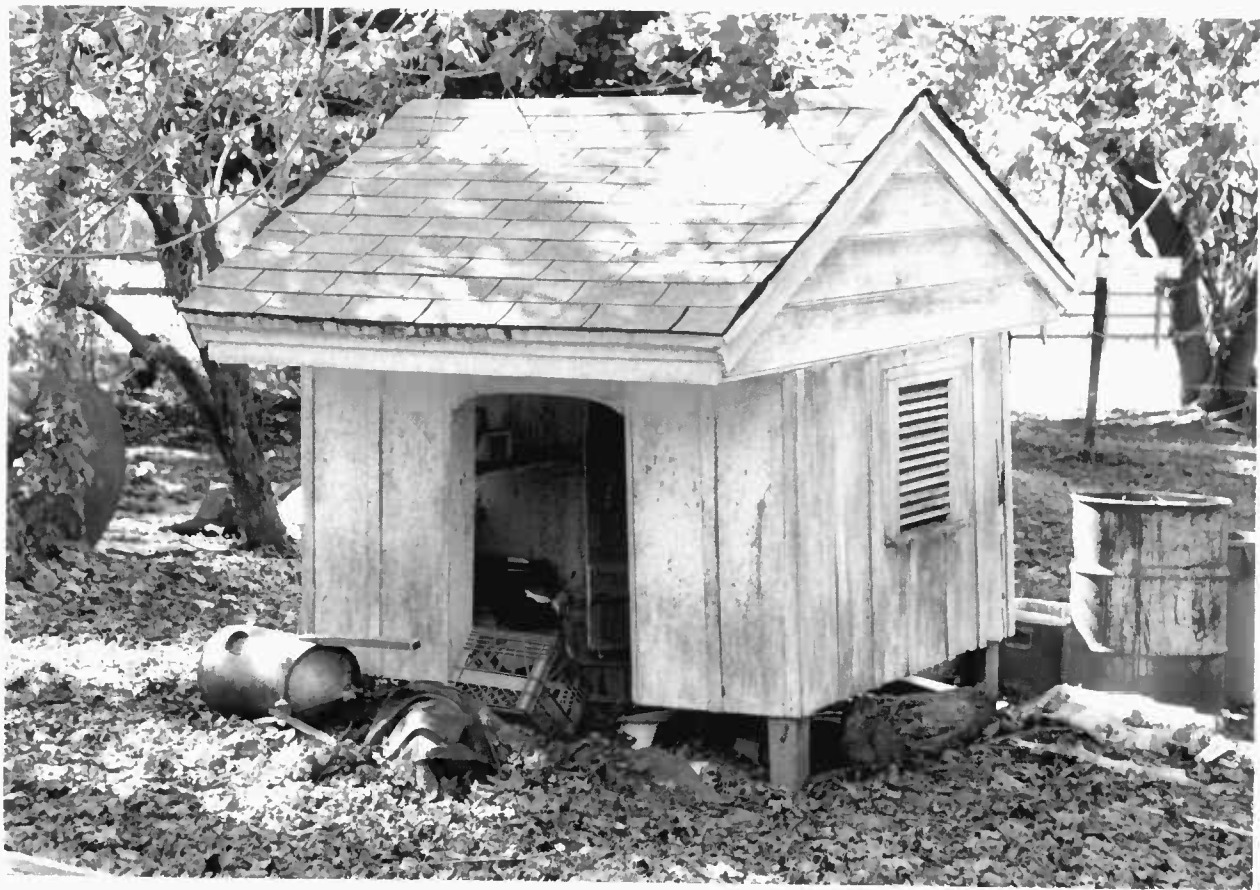
Allen, Wisconsin County, Wisconsin

NEAR 1/4 - 1/4 of 1/4

11/95, Fair Town, Wisconsin

NEAR 1/4 - 1/4 of 1/4

14





101-215

W. W. DISTANCE PROPERTY  
PULFEN, DISTANCE PROPERTY, I.O.

NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 2, T. 1 N.

11/95, PAID TAXES, PULFEN, DISTANCE PROPERTY

W. W. DISTANCE PROPERTY, I.O.

2/4



Wb-215

W. W. Disston & Co. Inc.

Austin, Texas

EAST ELEVATION OF BRIDGE

11/15, From Toward, photograph

North from bridge to tower

5

14



